

REMARKS

Claims 9-24 are pending in the application, claims 1-8 being canceled and claims 9-24 being newly added herein. Claims 9, 15, and 20 are the only independent claims.

Claims Objections

Claim 1 was objected to by the Examiner on account of an informality.

Claim 1 is canceled herein. The informality noted by the Examiner has not been incorporated into the new claims.

Claims Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

Claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,149,060 to Meadows.

Claims 5, 7, and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Meadows in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,422,097 to Menard.

Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Meadows in view of Menard and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,069,966 to Jones et al.

In response to the rejections of claim 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103, claims 1-8 have been replaced with claims 9-24. The new claims are believed to distinguish over the known prior art, particularly over the references cited by the Examiner. The independent claims are discussed below.

Claim 9 As set forth in new independent claim 9, an apparatus for identification of tyres and wheels with tyres in association with a tyre maintenance machine comprises at least one code detector, at least one data memory storing codes and data on predetermined types of tyres, at least one comparator circuit operatively connected to the detector and the memory for comparing a code detected by the detector with codes stored in the memory, at least one display device for displaying information pertaining to an identified tyre, a memory access device, and a decoder operatively connected to the access device and the memory for storing data and codes in the memory.

None of the references relied on by the Examiner, whether considered individually or collectively, either discloses or suggests a tyre identification apparatus including a memory access device, and a decoder operatively connected to the access device and the memory for storing data and codes in the memory.

Claim 15 As recited in new independent claim 15, an apparatus for identification of tyres and wheels with tyres in association with a tyre maintenance machine comprises at least one code detector, at least one data memory storing codes and data on predetermined types of tyres, at least one comparator circuit operatively connected to the detector and the memory for comparing a code detected by the detector with codes stored in the memory, at least one display device for displaying information pertaining to an identified tyre, an Internet access device, and a decoder operatively connected to the access device and the memory for downloading data and codes from the Internet into the memory.

None of the references relied on by the Examiner, whether considered one by one or in combination, either discloses or suggests a tyre identification apparatus including a memory, an Internet access device, and a decoder operatively connected to the access device and the memory for downloading data and codes from the Internet into the memory.

Claim 20 Pursuant to new independent claim 20, an apparatus for identification of tyres and wheels with tyres in association with a tyre maintenance machine comprises at least one code detector, at least one data memory storing codes and data on predetermined types of tyres, at least one comparator circuit operatively connected to the detector and the memory for comparing a code detected by the detector with codes stored in the memory, at least one display device for displaying information pertaining to an identified tyre and a discriminator element operatively connected to the comparator and the display device at least in part for determining an absence of a code on a tire and inducing communication of such absence via the display.

To the extent that claim 20 is equivalent to original claim 4, applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claim 4 and maintains that the prior art relied on by the Examiner neither discloses nor suggests a discriminator element operatively connected to a comparator and a display device at least in part for determining an absence of a code on a tire and inducing communication of such absence via the display.

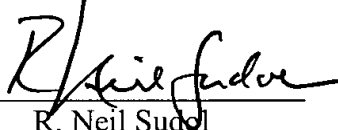
Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, independent claims 9, 15, and 20, as well as the claims dependent therefrom, are deemed to be in condition for allowance. An early Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that direct contact with applicant's attorney would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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